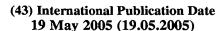
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY [-/CN]; Clear Water Bay, Kowloon (CN).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HARLEY, Calvin, B. [US/US]; 1730 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301 (US). CHIN, Allison, C. [US/US]; 1060 Campus Drive East, Stanford, CA 94305 (US). IP, Nancy, Yuk-yu [US/CN]; Repulse Bay Towers, Apt. 7A, 119A Repulse Bay Road, Kowloon (CN). WONG, Yung-hou [GB/CN]; Senior Staff Quarters, Tower 6, Flat 7B, Kowloon (CN). MILLER-MARTINI, David, M. [US/CN]; Senior Staff Quarters, Tower 11, Flat 1A, Kowloon (CN).
- (74) Agents: GORTHEY, LeeAnn et al.; Perkins Coie LLP, P.O. Box 2168, Menlo Park, CA 94026 (US).

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(54) Title: FORMULATIONS CONTAINING ASTRAGALUS EXTRACTS AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Formulations containing plant extracts, in particular Astragalus extracts, and their use in inducing telomerase activity in cells, are described. Such compositions include pharmaceutical, including topical, and nutraceutical formulations. The methods and compositions are useful for treating diseases subject to treatment by an increase in telomerase activity in selected cells, such as, for example, HIV infection, various degenerative diseases, and acute or chronic skin ailments. They are also useful for enhancing replicative capacity of cells in culture, as in ex vivo cell therapy and proliferation of stem cells. Also described are cosmetic formulations of such extracts for conditioning the skin.



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